

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 173

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate William L. Penny on becoming  
Chair of the Section of Environment, Energy,  
and Resources within the American Bar  
Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable individuals who have gained recognition and renown for their extraordinary skills, abilities, and achievements; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean and native Memphian is William L. "Bill" Penny, who has risen to the distinguished leadership position of Chair of the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources within the preeminent legal organization the American Bar Association (ABA); and

WHEREAS, in August 2011, Mr. Penny was elected Vice Chair of the ABA's 10,000-member Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources; by rotation, he became the Section's Chair-Elect for 2012-2013 and will take over as Chair for 2013-2014; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penny earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee in 1975. During the years of his subsequent public service career in the Division of State Audit, his friend and colleague, former Comptroller of the Treasury Jeanne Bodfish, inspired and encouraged him to pursue a legal career; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Mr. Penny received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Nashville School of Law, at where he now teaches environmental and administrative law; and

WHEREAS, following the creation of the Department of Health and Environment in 1982, Mr. Penny spent two years as Assistant General Counsel and then served as General Counsel until 1990, when he assumed the duties of top barrister of the newly created Department of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penny is an accomplished author and unsurpassed authority in the categories of administrative and regulatory law, environmental law, environmental litigation, government relations practice, and water law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penny has always been active in various community and civic groups, including the Hospital Hospitality House, Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, and the Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and is a member of Belle Meade United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penny is a consummate family man and sports enthusiast; he and his wife, Linda, and son, Martin, are avid fans and supporters of University of Tennessee sports, and are especially devoted to the football and men's basketball programs; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinarily well-rounded Tennessean, Mr. Penny is also an avid bluegrass musician, and is known for his skills on the flat top guitar. In 1979, he placed second in the overall guitar competition at the fabled Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Penny has delivered his professional and personal best for the good of this State and its citizens, and it is wholly appropriate that this legislative body recognizes him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate William L. Penny as he ascends to the chairmanship of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources and we wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.